

STARCHEVNO, Anatoli

Tuesday June 16th 1964

SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Meeting took place at the prearranged place, Broadway and 116th St. at 10 A.M. S had to go to the philosophy department to take care of some private business. We left for the Worlds Fair at 10:30 arriving there at 11:15. On the subway going there we discussed the treaty of Pereyaslav. I asked S if Ukraine is still a part of Russia, and if the treaty is still valid today. He said that the treaty is valid. Then how come officials of the Ukrainian SSR claim that the Ukraine is an independent nation, I asked. S replied that the treaty was made for protection of Ukraine and does not in any way limit or interfere in Ukraine's freedom. I said that the treaty was signed over a three hundred years ago and times have changed, why should Ukraine depend on Russia still, aren't all the nations of the Soviet Union one big family, why should pre-revolution treaties still be in existence today? To this he did not answer.

At the fair we decided to stop and eat at a Phillipine restaurant. We were standing and talking in Ukrainian when the hostess approached us and asked us what country we were from. S said that we were Americans, but the hostess wanted to know from what country we were from originally. S replied that we were Hungarian. When she left he explained to me that he does not like to mention to people that he is from the USSR because many shy away and are afraid to talk to him.

During the visit to the Egyptian pavillion he showed me a tractor used in the building of the Aswan dam and said that it was a tractor made in the Soviet Union.

He was impressed by the Japanese Pavillion and by the General Electric Pav. During the tour we took photographs of each other and of the various exhibits. While we were walking we engaged in small talk.

S suggested that we go for lunch to the Grayhound restaurant because he knew a waitress there (a student from the international house.)

During the dinner we talked about the Stalinist era, I asked S what happened to Beria, he said that Beria was shot, by whom he did not know.

S asked me if I am not afraid to write to him, and if I am not afraid to receive letters from the Soviet Union. I said that this was an absurd question, why should I be afraid to write to him or why should I be afraid to receive letters from him. S said that many Americans are afraid to receive letters from the Soviet Union because they are afraid for their careers. I said that this happens sometimes but that in every country there are these types of people.

Talking about Rumania S said that there is nothing wrong with the relations of Rumania and the USSR.

I asked S about the structure of Soviet Society, is it really classless as the Soviet Govt. claims. S. replied that there are two classes in the Soviet Union. The workers and the professionals. I asked why ordinary workers can't go to visit the United States or other countries in Europe. S replied that such trips cost too much money. And that plain workers cannot afford such trips.

I asked S about the disturbances in Georgia after Khrushchev's exposure of Stalin's crimes. He said that Stalin was regarded as a national hero in Georgia therefore there were demonstrations by some of the population.

S told me that a student from California was coming to New York City on Friday. S said that he wanted me to meet V.H. when he got to the city. And said that he would call me and give me more information.

We left the Fair at 5:00 PM S had to go to Kleins on 14th St. to buy some shirts. On parting he told me that I hadn't succeeded in convincing him that the Soviet system is bad. And that he didn't convince me that the American system is bad. I mentioned that both of us are Ukrainians and it was very interesting talking to him since he is a Ukrainian from the fatherland. S said that he would rather talk to a German if he was a communist. S promised to write and asked me to do the same. He said that he had a record to give me and would leave it in the international house under my name.

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Vasile Hrytsya

6 July 64

File 74-124-293